

UNITED STATES CAN MEET ALL NEEDS WITH ITS OWN PRODUCTS

The increase in the use of tropical products by the United States, as well as European countries, was discussed by O. P. Austin, former chief of the Bureau of Statistics, in an address delivered at the West Side Young Men's Christian Association in its foreign commerce course. Mr. Austin urged that the production of these imports be fostered in our own possessions and predicted that we should soon be making at home the high grade manufactures we now import, such as cotton, fibers, silk, and chemicals, says an article in the New York Times.

"When these two things shall have been accomplished," he said, "when the American manufacturer shall supply the high grade manufactures now imported, but which he will soon be able to produce, and when our new islands shall supply the tropical products which we must have, the United States will occupy the unique distinction of producing within her own boundaries all of the requirements of her own people, and will continue to supply other nations from her growing surplus the natural demand, and which they will continue to demand in increasing quantities."

In taking up this phase of his subject, Mr. Austin said:

"While it is true that we are the world's greatest producer of bread and meat and coal and iron and steel manufactures, we have been in the past entirely dependent upon others for the world for tropical products. And it is in these articles that the chief growth in our importations has occurred.

"Year by year the people consume increased quantities of tropical productions for food and drink. Our imports of sugar have grown from a little more than 1,000,000,000 pounds in 1870 to 6,500,000,000 at the present time, if we include that from our own tropical islands; those of coffee from 235,000,000 pounds to over 1,000,000,000; tea from 47,000,000 pounds to 31,000,000, and cocoa from less than 4,000,000 pounds to 175,000,000.

"But more important than this is the fact that the great manufacturing interests of the country are making greater and greater demands upon the tropics for their supplies of raw materials. The imports of fibres, chiefly tropical, which in 1870 amounted to less than 44,000 tons, were last year 418,000 tons; those of rubber have in the same time increased from less than 10,000,000 pounds to over 130,000,000 pounds; tobacco, from 6,000,000 to 60,000,000 pounds; silk, from 500,000 pounds to over 28,000,000 pounds, and cotton, from less than 2,000,000 pounds to over 100,000,000 pounds.

"The result is that the value of tropical and sub-tropical products imported has grown from \$143,000,000 in 1870 to about \$750,000,000, including that from our own islands. The value of our imports classified as 'manufacturers' raw materials' in 1890 was \$160,000,000 and amounted to 22 per cent of the total; in the year just ended the value of manufacturers' materials imported was about \$635,000,000 and formed about 33 per cent of the grand total.

Dependence on Tropics.

"What does this mean? Clearly that we are increasing our dependence upon the tropics.

"What does it mean to the producers and manufacturers and exporters of the country? Clearly that they should seek to pay in the products of the field and factory for the increasing millions of tropical products which they import and must continue to import, and that in the great undeveloped markets of South America and Africa and Asia and Oceania, which supply these tropical products, we should seek to enlarge our sales and encourage mutual interchange of commodities.

"What does it mean to this nation, which has recently extended its control over three great groups of tropical islands, with an area of 150,000 square miles, a population of 10,000,000 people, and an unmeasured possibility for the production of the very articles which we are now importing in increased quantities and must continue to import in greater quantities? Clearly that much of this great mass of the necessities of life and manufacture which we are now importing can be produced under the American

flag, with American capital, and by American citizens.

"Any one of the islands, Porto Rico, Hawaii, Guam, Tutuila, and the Philippine Islands, is capable of producing a part of the hemp, the jute, the coffee, the cocoa, the tropical fruits, the sugar, the high-grade tobacco, and probably the silk and the tea and the India rubber for which we are now sending hundreds of millions of dollars to other countries. I would not see them take a dollar from the earnings of the American farmer, but until he can produce at home the sugar and high-grade tobacco and silk and rice for which we are now sending our millions abroad why should we not expend that money in our own islands, and in so doing build up in them a splendid market for our products of the farm and factory?"

"The Hawaiian Islands have increased their producing power more than thirty-fold since we annexed them commercially by the reciprocity treaty of 1876, and have also increased their consumption of our products thirty-fold. In the short fourteen years since the actual annexation of those islands their production has enormously increased and our exports to them have trebled. In the fifteen years since Porto Rico came under the American flag it has increased twenty-fold its supply of tropical products in our markets and correspondingly increased its consumption of American goods. In the fifteen years since the American flag was hoisted at Manila, our exports to the Philippine Islands have increased fifty-fold, and those to all Asia and Oceania have trebled.

Opportunities in Home Market.

"There are four great groups of manufacturers which stubbornly held their own in the import trade, despite the efforts of the manufacturers of the country to capture the home market. These four groups are manufactures of cotton, manufactures of fibres, manufactures of silk, and chemicals.

"The value of the importation of cotton manufactures in 1891 was \$28,000,000, and by 1914 it had grown to \$70,000,000. The importation of manufactures of fibres, which in 1891 was \$21,000,000 was \$82,000,000 in 1914. The importations of manufactures of silk have averaged about \$25,000,000 per year since 1895. The importations of chemicals, drugs, and dyes, \$45,000,000 a dozen years ago, are now \$95,000,000 a year. Add to these the \$32,000,000 worth of manufactures of iron and steel imported last year, the \$25,000,000 worth of leather and its manufactures, and the \$10,000,000 worth of chinaware, and we get an aggregate of \$300,000,000 worth of the domestic market now being supplied by foreign manufacturers, and for which our own manufacturers may still compete.

"The fact that the share which manufactures form of our imports has steadily fallen and the exportations of finished manufactures steadily increased until we are now constantly exporting 50 per cent. more of manufactures than we import, gives me a complete assurance, a perfect confidence, that American manufacturers will not only capture this remaining \$300,000,000 of the home market still available, but will go steadily forward in the work of capturing foreign markets."

CHAIR BUSINESS BETTER.

Freight Records Show Increase at Thomasville.

(Special to The News and Observer.)

Thomasville, March 20.—The Southern freight agent advises that the freight business has been gradually picking up for the last two or three weeks and that it will be only a short time until business will be normal again. Car load after car load of chairs are moving out from Thomasville now and the manufacturers say that future business conditions look brighter than for several months. The timbermen made good use of the fair weather for the past week and cut great quantities of chair timber which is now being hauled to the factories. Thomasville has suffered less from business depression, brought on by the great struggle in the East, than any other town in this immediate section. Reliable parties say that it will only be a short time until all the factories of the town will be running on full time.

NEW ENTERPRISES IN THE SOUTH

Among the many Southern industrial and other developmental enterprises reported in last week's issue of the Manufacturers' Record are the following:

Union Cotton Oil Company, Station Birmingham, Ala., was incorporated and will build cotton seed oil mill to cost \$100,000; buildings will be of fireproof concrete construction.

Kincaid Manufacturing Company, Griffin, Ga., will add 8,500 spindles and 200 looms, together with carding, picking and spinning machinery for the production of cotton goods, etc.

Eagle Hay Press and Implement Company, Muskogee, Okla., was incorporated with capital stock of \$175,000 to manufacture farming implements.

Harvey Coal Company was incorporated with capital stock of \$100,000, by E. L. Douglas and others of Knoxville, Tenn., to operate coal mine in Perry county, Ky.

Southern Furniture Corporation, Birmingham, Ala., was incorporated with capital stock of \$100,000 to manufacture furniture, etc.

Yerkes Chemical Company, Winston-Salem, N. C., was incorporated with capital stock of \$50,000 to manufacture chemicals.

Rothwell & Company, Martinsburg, W. Va., will establish cold storage and ice manufacturing plant at Staunton, Va.; will utilize 4-story brick building and insulate all floors, ceilings and walls; three upper floors to have capacity of 40,000 to 42,000 pounds apples; will install ice machinery and operate by electric power, cost \$45,000 to \$50,000.

W. B. Davis and Son, Fort Payne, Ala., will build addition to hosiery mill, one story, brick, 150x64 feet.

Floridin Company, Warren, Pa., will build fuller's earth mining and handling plant, including mill, drying and power buildings; daily capacity 100 tons; cost \$60,000.

Citizens' Company, Roanoke, Va., will incorporate with probable capital stock of \$100,000 to build ice plant.

Southern Mineral Products Company, Atlanta, Ga., was incorporated with capital stock of \$250,000, will absorb the Georgia Mica Co., Jasper, Ga., and build refinery at Atlanta for fieldspar and mica.

Armour & Company, main office at Chicago, Ill., will build three-story and basement cold storage plant and warehouse at Macon, Ga.; structure will be of reinforced concrete with brick exterior and stone trimmings and cost about \$50,000.

Timber Products Co., Savannah, Ga., was incorporated with authorized capital stock of \$1,000,000.

Citizens' Crystal Ice Company, Roanoke, Va., was incorporated with capital stock of \$50,000.

Southern Cotton Picker Company, Memphis, Tenn., was incorporated with capital stock of \$50,000 to manufacture cotton pickers, etc.

C. N. Whiting, Shepherdstown, W. Va., will erect and equip flour mill at cost of about \$40,000.

Davis-Manatee Company, Manatee, Fla., was incorporated with capital stock of \$50,000 to operate electric plant, etc.

Rose Hill Lumber Company, of Richmond, Va., was incorporated with \$100,000 capital stock.

Iola Zinc Mining Company, Yellville, Ark., was incorporated with \$50,000 capital stock to develop zinc properties.

Shale Brick Manufacturing Company, Shaleville, N. C., was incorporated with \$50,000 capital stock to manufacture bricks.

Cherokee Chemical Company, Andrews, Fla., was incorporated with \$125,000 capital stock; will build plant to grind, mix and prepare various specialties, acquired mine of decomposed silica to be basis of several products.

So extensive are the precautions taken on the railroads that climb the Andes and link Argentina and Chile, which have the steepest grades in the world, that not a fatal accident has occurred since they were opened in 1910.

An ingenious tool has been invented to enable jewelers to remove stones from settings quickly and without injury to either stone or setting.

A SILVER TABLET TO CAPT. DECKER

Refugees Give Handsome Token to Commanding Officer of The Tennessee

Cairo, Mar. 20.—As a mark of their gratitude, the refugees brought by the United States cruiser Tennessee from Jaffa to Alexandria have presented a silver tablet to Captain Benton C. Decker. It depicts the misery of the refugees leaving Jaffa and their happiness on entering Alexandria aboard the Tennessee.

About 10,000 persons have been so far brought from Palestine to Egypt by the American cruiser. Of them 5,000 are quite destitute and have to be fed and sheltered by the Egyptian government. They are mostly Russian Jews. Of the remainder, about 4,000 are on the verge of destitution. Some 600 have already been repatriated. The Russians have been given a month in which to avail themselves of a chance to return to Palestine at the expense of the Russian government.

The authorities at Jaffa raised so many difficulties over the departure of the last lot of refugees that the captain of the Tennessee doubts whether any more will be permitted to leave.

"The good work performed by the Tennessee can not be over estimated," says Reuter's correspondent, in describing conditions at Alexandria. He reports visiting the quarters of the refugees and finding them well housed. At Wardian, a fine, airy building, formerly a school, accommodates some hundreds. The Bahari quarantine station holds 1,400. At Mafroussa, the quarantine cattle sheds have been cleaned out and made habitable, the stalls serving as rooms.

"The refugees come of poor stock," says the correspondent, "and probably few among them have experienced the luxury of a cotton stuffed mattress, which the kindly Egyptian government is providing for them. Meat is supplied one day in the week. The women and children are badly in need of clothes, especially shoes. Arrangements are made by the Egyptian government for the schooling of the children."

BOY BORN WITHOUT LEGS.

But He Wins a Pony and Is Puzzled as to How to Ride It.

Glenwood City, (Wis.) Dispatch to the Milwaukee Leader.

Little Louie Von Ruden, Glenwood City's noted lapsus natura, has just received word that he had won a pony for securing the largest number of votes in a farm journal's subscription contest.

What he will do with the animal when he gets it is a matter of speculation, as he is entirely without lower limbs, having been born that way about ten years ago. Notwithstanding his lack of natural propellers, he gets about with more than the average speed of boys by means of a roller skate strapped to a stump where one of his legs ought to be. He is an unusually bright boy for his years, goes to school, enjoys uniformly good health, and shows no lack of cheerfulness because of his unique physical make-up.

Boyish discomfords from new shoes are an unknown thing to him, and the dictates of fashion as to the correct length or circumference of trouser legs have no interest for him. His people are substantial Germans, who see that he lacks for none of the things that contribute to juvenile happiness.

Mine Layer on Vacation.

Newton, Mar. 20.—Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Rockett, Mr. M. L. Rockett and Miss Bessie Baker of Hickory township motored to Newton this week. The junior Mr. Rockett is on a leave of absence from the government mine-layer, Gen. Royall T. Frank, now at Wilmington. He has been in the government service since the Mine-laying goes on in peace as well as war, and these boats visit in ports, forts and rivers, laying the mines.

AMERICA FOR ME

Oh, London is a man's town, there's power in the air;
And Paris is a woman's town, with flowers in her hair;
And it's sweet to dream in Venice, and it's great to study Rome;
But when it comes to living, there is no place like home.

I know that Europe's wonderful, yet something seems to lack;
The Past is too much with her, and the people looking back.
But the glory of the Present is to make the Future free—
We love our land for what she is and what she is to be.

Oh, it's home again, and home again, America for me!
I want a ship that's westward bound to plow the rolling sea,
To the blessed Land of Room Enough beyond the ocean bars,
Where the air is full of sunlight and the flag is full of stars.

—HENRY VAN DYKE.

BELGIUM

DANA BURNET in the New York Evening Sun

A Beggar Man came hungry to my door,
I gave him bread, and would have given more.
But Charity, astounded, bade me wait
Until her minions should investigate.

"Who knows?" said she. "This man may be a sinner.
His soul may not be worthy of a dinner!
Say then, until we try the Third Degree,
He may not be quite right," said Charity.

So all that day the twin of gentle Hope
Put my pale beggar 'neath the microscope.
At night Fair Charity emerged aglow—
"He was all right," she said. "He died, you know."